



# Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Thursday, Dec. 3, 1863.

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**The War News.**  
The glorious victory at Chattanooga, the details of which will be found in our columns, will give an impulse to the cause of the Union second to no other event of the war. It possesses an importance far beyond the immediate results which have been achieved by the skill of our commanders and the valor of our soldiers. Aside from the re-establishment of unobstructed communication with his base of supplies, and the effectual diversion in favor of Burnside at Knoxville, which it secures, it has opened to Gen. Grant the gateway into the very heart of the rebel Confederacy. All the advantages which would have accrued from a victory at Chickamauga instead of the disastrous defeat which we then suffered, have been acquired and made permanent by the brilliant and decisive series of movements on the 23d and 24th of November, in which Hooker and Sherman and Thomas and Howard so gloriously distinguished themselves. In the expressive language of Gen. Meigs when communicating the details of these movements to the Secretary of War, "The strength of the rebellion in the centre has been broken. Burnside is relieved from the danger in East Tennessee. Kentucky and Tennessee are rescued. Georgia and the Southeast are threatened in the rear, and another victory is added to the chapter of 'Unconditional Surrender Grant.'"

Assuming as a matter of course that Gen. Grant will follow up his advantage, gained at such apparently trifling cost to the strength of his army, the speedy destruction of Bragg's army, and the speedy occupation of Rome and Atlanta, would seem to be among the legitimate fruits of the victory. An other contingency to follow in its train, and which from the tenor of late despatches, would seem to be in progress of realization, is the abandonment of Virginia by the army of Lee, rather than risk the severance of its vital connection with the eastern States, the additional school gynastic exercises with a portion of his class. The exercises attracted much attention and were witnessed with much pleasure by the audience. At 4 o'clock a lecture was given on Natural History, by Mr. Edward S. Morse, of Gorham.

In the evening Rev. Mr. Weston, of Cumberland, father of Hon. E. P. Weston, read an interesting paper on reminiscences of his school-boy days, with an account of the schools of A. D. 1800 in Old Plymouth.

A hour was spent in social intercourse, and in partaking of refreshments provided by the teachers of the city.

Wednesday morning a class recitation in geography, under the direction of Mr. Graves of Bath, fully proved the excellence of the teacher and thorough drill of the class. Prof. Sanborn Tenney, of Massachusetts, delighted and entertained all present by an eloquent and instructive lecture upon *Methods of Instruction in geography*. No exercise of this session has been more practical in its matter, or better received by the teachers present than this. Mr. Stevens and his class gave an illustration of some additional exercises in gynastics, introducing apparatus and movements different from those previously shown.

Mr. J. T. Taylor then read a paper upon School Government. Votes of thanks to Prof. Tenney for his lecture, and to Mr. Stevens and his class of boys, were passed, and the Convention adjourned to hold its next session in Portland.

**Man the Forts.**  
Not the military forts, for they are pretty well manned now,—not the many fortifications and batteries which encircle the nation, for they are now bristling with bayonets, or full of cannon and shell and shot, with men and munitions enough to make them pour out thunder and lightning and death and destruction for a year to come. We have another class of forts,—another class of fortifications,—cheap and humble in their construction, lonely and peaceful in their appearance, quiet and still, in their action, but mighty in their power. They are found dotted about the country, at the corners of cross roads, in secluded nooks of villages and hamlets, and are called, in common parlance, the "school-houses." We are indebted for them to the foresight and wisdom of those sterling old puritans of the "Mayflower," who first established them in the old colony two hundred and forty-three years ago, and under the guidance of a good Providence, they have been the salvation of our rights and liberties, the strength and the glory of the nation. It was the custom of these glorious old fathers, to man these forts every year on the "first Monday after Thanksgiving," and as a general thing, the custom has been kept up in the "rural districts" even to this day.

In other words, the winter and principal term of the district school commenced at this time—when the hurry and pressure of harvest was over, and the farmers' boys and girls could be conveniently spared from the work on the farm, and the house, and the wintry days and long evenings could be advantageously devoted to study and improving the mind in those branches of knowledge that enter daily into the practical duties of life. The commonness of the thing, if we may coin a homely word, seems to blind many to the vast importance and the undying results of these institutions. Humbled as they are—quiet and unostentatious as is their operation, they are nevertheless of a vital and absolute necessity to the existence and prosperity of the nation, and will, in the process of time, be the means of spreading light and knowledge and enduring liberty, and consequent happiness upon the whole world. This may seem to be a broad claim for their power, but it is nevertheless true; and a recurrence to, and review of their history and the change which a little more than two centuries of their action have made upon the civilized world will prove it. The condition of those portions of our own country, where these schools have been established and cherished, and those portions where they have never been allowed, stand in striking contrast before the world. These two portions have been, for the last two years, engaged in deadly warfare. The latter led by men whose ambition induced them to ignore the principles of human right, human equality, and human liberty. They have acted upon the ignorant and deluded masses, and induced them to strike down the Government that they might rear another, based upon slavery and its consequent ignorance, in its stead. The other, imbued from their earliest infancy with the purest principles of equality and freedom, and taught in our common schools the rudiments of self government and practical science, have risen in their combined might to defend and preserve those institutions which have been the glory of the nation and the enlightenment of the world.

In proportion as these schools are cherished and rightly conducted, so will be their influence and value to the rising generation who attend them. Hence, we say it is a sacred duty to look after them, with the utmost solicitude, and to see that every facility is given to the scholars to attend, and every advantage and aid to the teacher, that full and accurate instruction may be imparted, and the fullest benefit derived.

The difference between a good school and a poor one is immense. Their influences are felt not only for the present, but for years and years afterwards. If a good corresponding good, and if evil a corresponding evil is derived and continued. Yet, too few parents and guardians seem to be alive to those facts, or are sensible that anything depends upon their individual exertions or their aid in such matters. If the agent hires a teacher, and the children are sent to school they seem to think their whole duty is accomplished, when, in fact, it has but just commenced. Every individual in the community has a direct and a lasting interest in their district schools. All should therefore unite in making the house comfortable and pleasant.

**CONCENTRATED MILK.** Many of our readers are doubtless aware that by a certain process in operation in several establishments in the United States, liquids can be condensed or brought into a comparatively solid state, adding much to their value for many purposes.

**M'LE CANNIA URSO.** This accomplished lady violinist will give a concert this (Tuesday) evening at Meenion Hall, Augusta, assisted by artists of the celebrated Gilmore's Band, Boston. It is said by those who have listened to the performance of this singularly gifted woman, that no violinist, dead or living, has ever been able to draw from this simple instrument such wondrous melody. It will be the delight of a life-time to hear her, and no one should miss the opportunity now afforded.

**LARGE BOUNTIES.** The competition among towns and cities for men to fill their several quotas grows warmer and sharper every day.

As will be seen in another column, a gentleman in this city, interested in this matter, has received assurance from parties owing rights in this "process," that if a suitable location can be secured in Maine, they will establish one of these manufactures here, and have it in operation the change summer.

We think there will be no trouble in finding a suitable situation, and hope that the project may be put in operation and the enterprise become successful. Such an establishment would be a fine thing in any dairy and orchard region not conveniently situated to a market, as it would create a good demand for the milk and apples produced within an area of several miles. The demand would also encourage the growing of fruit, and particularly the keeping of more cows, resulting in the consumption of the hay and grain upon the farm, increasing the manure heap, better feeding of the crops, and in every way making the farm more valuable.

**BRIEF NOTES ON THE WEATHER.** for the week ending Sunday, Nov. 29th, 1863.

**Nor. 23rd—Splendid; warmest of day; wind W.**  
**24th.—A. M. fair; began hailing and snowing at 12 P. M.; warmest 39 deg.; wind E.; storm turned to rain about midnight.**

**25th—Splendid; warmest 47 deg.; wind W.**  
**26th—Fine; warmest 46 deg.; wind S. W.**  
**27th—Fair; warmest 45 deg.; wind N. W.**

**28th—Fair; warmest 40 deg.; wind N. W.**

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# THE MAINE

CHATTANOOGA, 27th. The situation to-night is highly satisfactory. Gen. Hooker, Palmer and Sherman's commands are nearly ten miles beyond Chickamauga Creek in view of the crushing defeat of Bragg who is making every effort to escape our adroit near Dalton.

In a sharp fight this morning Gen. Palmer's advance took four guns and three hundred prisoners.

Gen. Sherman is reported to have advanced from Tyne Station on our left-to-day and cut off 2000 rebels.

The road along which Bragg is retreating is taken with caissons, wagons, commissary and medical stores.

The prisoners say it is impossible for the rebels to make their troops stand.

Colonel Lang's cavalry command returned from a raid in the East Tennessee valley late to-night.

They destroyed the bridge at fifteen miles above and the battle of Chattanooga after two days of maneuvering and fighting was won.

The strength of the rebellion in the center is broken, and Gen. Burnside is relieved of danger in East Tennessee, and Kentucky and Tennessee are rescued.

Georgia and the southeast are threatened, too, in the rear, and another victory added to the chapter of "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

To-night the estimate of capture, &c., is several thousand prisoners and 30 pieces of artillery.

Our loss for so great a victory is not severe.

Bragg is firing the railroad as he retreats towards Dalton, Georgia.

Sherman is in hot pursuit to-day.

We have the battle field which extends along Missionary Ridge for six miles and for several miles on Lookout Mountain, and probably not so well directed, so well ordered a battle has been fought during the war. But one assault was repulsed.

A few days since Bragg sent to Gen. Grant a flag of truce demanding that it would be permitted to remove any non-combatants who might be in Chattanooga. No reply has been made, but the combatants having removed from this vicinity is probable that the non-combatants can remain without imprudence.

(Signed) M. C. MEIGS, Quartermaster General.

CHATTANOOGA, 28th. Accounts received to-night from the Army of the Potomac say our troops broke camp yesterday morning and marched towards the Rappahannock in three columns. The right, consisting of the 3d corps, supported by the 6th were ordered to cross at Jacob's Ford, the 2d corps to cross at Germanna and the 5th, supported by the 1st to cross at Culpeper Ford between Germanna and Ely's Ford. The center corps, which at Germanna about noon sent a small packet of Georgia cavalry were seen on the other side.

The latest reliable intelligence is that Lee's forces do not exceed 50,000 men.

The enemy's right flank near the mountain is protected by a line of works from the river defences, running south to then southwest, reaching the town of Gadsden. Our crossing points, therefore, were all between the Rappahannock and the rebel position.

A portion of our troops reached the other side of the Rapidan yesterday, and the remainder to-day, together with headquarters, which crossed before nine this morning.

The troops were dispersed in force, but concentrated their arms and fall back from the river. No disposition was made to our crossing, excepting at one of the upper fords.

**Details of the Movement at Chattanooga—Bragg's Army Retreating upon Dalton.**

HEADQUARTERS, Chattanooga, Tenn., 26th. On the 25th Inst., at 11 A.M. Gen. Grant ordered a demonstration on Missionary Ridge to develop the force holding it. The troops marched out, formed in order and advanced in line of battle as if on parade. The rebels watched the formation and movement from the summit of Mission Ridge, 500 feet above us, and thought it was a review and drill, so openly and deliberately, so regular was it, that they had no idea of what was intended.

The enemy's pickets and skirmishers held the road leading to the Rapidan, south of Jackson's Ford. As the rebels advanced it came in sight on the enemy's pickets and skirmishers. Subsequently the enemy's line was strengthened by the arrival of reinforcements from Ewell's corps, on the Rapidan point. At about 1 o'clock a slow and irregular cannonading commenced on the road leading to Orange Court House, and the rebels held the skirmishers off the skirmishers.

The enemy did not reply with rifle pits. At 4 o'clock it was announced that Hill's corps, which had previously rested on the Rapidan, west of the railroad, was approaching on the center, and half an hour later heavy musketry was heard on the right, showing that the 3d corps, forming on the line of 2500 troops which Gen. Thomas had so finely deployed, until he opened fire.

Up to 6 o'clock Friday morning our casualties were few on the center. The only officer of rank, at that hour known to be killed, is Lieut. Col. Hesser, 72d Pa.

The battle ground is in the wilderness with but little open country, consequently an accurate description of our position cannot be given but it will be perceived we have the enemy's fortifications to the west and their skirmishers to the east.

The enemy did not reply with rifle pits. At 4 o'clock Saturday morning our casualties were few on the center. The only officer of rank, at that hour known to be killed, is Lieut. Col. Hesser, 72d Pa.

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